



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

**Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733**

September 23, 2015

Maria T. Garcia
Forest Supervisor
Santa Fe National Forest
11 Forest Lane
Santa Fe, NM 87508

Re: Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Southwest Jemez Mountains Landscape
Restoration Project, Santa Fe National Forest, Sandoval County, New Mexico

Dear Ms. Garcia:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas, has completed its review of the U.S. Forest Service Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Southwest Jemez Mountains Landscape Restoration Project. The purpose of the project is to restore ecosystem structure and function and increase resilience to undesirable, large-scale disturbances such as high severity wildfire, climate change, or insect outbreaks in the Southwest Jemez Mountains.

EPA provided comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) dated April 3, 2014, in which the DEIS was rated as "EC-2", i.e., "Environmental Concerns—And Requests Additional Information". EPA is pleased that the FEIS included additional analysis of the proposed action to address our concerns. We have no additional comments and look forward to receipt of the Record of Decision document.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to review the FEIS. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Michael Jansky, of my staff, at (214) 665-7451 or via email at jansky.michael@epa.gov, for assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Hayden", is positioned above the typed name.

Keith Hayden
Acting Chief, Office of Planning
and Coordination